

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to amend the specification formally in line with amendments made to the specification in the parent to this continuation-in-part application and to add claims to the invention of this application, i.e., claims based on subject matter disclosed in this application along with subject matter disclosed in the parent application. In addition, formal amendments have been made to the specification to align the text to a reasonable degree to the scope of the invention subject matter of this continuation-in-part application. This subject matter relates to integrated collaborative and content-based filtering in search engine systems preferably providing both demand searches and continuing or wire searches for user queries.

The current invention is directed to improving the performance of search engines, such as those used at portal sites of the internet. The invention achieves performance improvement through the application of collaborative feedback data to provide integrated collaborative/content-based filtering in search engine operations. The invention further achieves performance improvement through the provision of a filter system which selectively provides demand searches or continuing (wire) searches for user queries. Added text on page 82 provides more detail on the scope, structure and operation of the invention. As indicated, the structure and operation of embodiments can be varied considerably within the spirit and scope of the principles of the invention.

Claims 85-100 vary in scope in defining the invention over the known prior art. These claims define, in apparatus, method and means formats, various invention features considered in the above description and disclosed in the specification and drawings, as amended. Accordingly, the Examiner should allow these claims and pass this application for issue.

If the Examiner has any inquiries or needs to discuss any matter related to this case, the undersigned attorney can be reached by phone at either 703 205 8081 or 703 271 9295 or the assignee's General Counsel Jeffrey Snider can be reached by phone at 781 370 2852.

Respectfully submitted,

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